

7-032 2002 Grattan Puxon letter Church
Dorset

To: Senior Apostle James Ozigi
Concerning: Dr Boris Muntyanu
Christian Rom from Ukraine, in need of sanctuary

From: Grattan Puxon

Phone/Fax 01206 523 528

I spoke with Richard Solly yesterday (21 Aug) and he told me that a church in Dorset may be willing to offer sanctuary to Dr Boris Muntyanu.

Dr Muntyanu is an active Christian and has been working with others towards the establishment of a Romani Church in the Ukraine.

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His application for asylum has been rejected and his Appeal against this decision is to be heard on 29 August.

As president of the Odessa Romani Congress, Dr Muntyanu was trying for sometime to counter the influence of the drug Mafia on his community. He organized evangelical meetings at camps and succeeded in bringing many of his people into the church.

In reaction, he found himself being threatened both by the Mafia and by corrupt police officers. He was warned to give up his activities. On 31 March 2001, he was beaten up in the street in Odessa. The police took not action. On 9 May, at 10pm, he received a telephone call telling him that if he did not leave the country within 24 hours, he and his family would be killed.

Dr. Muntyanu left the Ukraine at 5 am the next morning. His wife and children are in hiding in a neighbouring country, while Boris attempts to obtain asylum in the UK. In the meantime he is doing voluntary work at Southampton General Hospital and studying English.

His address is: 100A Waterloo Road, Southampton SO15 3BT